

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claim 1, 2, 6 and 7 as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) An image printing and reading apparatus comprising:  
a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path;  
a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path;  
a reference white board for shading correction used by said reading unit upon execution of prescanning; and  
a moving unit to move said reading unit to a reading unit document reading position and said reference white board to a reference white board document reading position when said reading unit executes document reading, and to move said reading unit to a reading unit retreat position and said reference white board to a reference white board retreat position ~~in~~ at which the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon execution of prescanning,  
wherein the reading unit retreat position and the reference white board retreat position are ~~is~~ relatively higher than the reading unit document reading position and the reference white board document reading position.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the reading unit retreat position ~~is a position and the reference white board retreat position are positions~~ within a casing of said image printing and reading apparatus.

3.-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a detection unit to detect occurrence of jam in the common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if said detection unit has not detected the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

6. (Currently Amended) A prescanning method in an image printing and reading apparatus including a printing unit to print an image on a print sheet conveyed through a print sheet path, a reading unit to read a document conveyed through a document path, having a common part belonging to the print sheet path and the document path, and a reference white board for shading correction used by the reading unit upon execution of prescanning, said method comprising:

a step of moving the reading unit to a reading unit document reading position and the reference white board to a reference white board document reading position when the reading unit executes document reading, and to move the reading unit to a reading unit retreat position and the reference white board to a reference white board retreat position ~~in~~ at which the influence of ambient light is reduced at least upon execution of prescanning; and

a step of executing the prescanning when the reading unit and the reference white board are in the retreat position,

wherein the reading unit retreat position and the reference white board retreat position are ~~is~~ relatively higher than the reading unit document reading position and the reference white board document reading position.

7. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the reading unit retreat position ~~is a position and the reference white board retreat position are positions~~ within a casing of the image printing and reading apparatus.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 6, further comprising a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common part belonging to the print sheet path and the document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.

10.-11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The apparatus according to Claim 2, further comprising a detection unit to detect occurrence of jam in the common part belonging to said print sheet path and said document path,

wherein if said detection unit has not detected the occurrence of jam, said reading unit executes the prescanning.

13. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 7, further comprising a step of detecting occurrence of jam in the common part belonging to the print sheet path and the document path,

wherein if the occurrence of jam has not been detected, the prescanning is executed.